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LONDON AWAITING IMPORTANT NEWS

Occupation of Bloemfontein Is Hourly Expected.

MAFEKING HARD PRESSED

Cronje to Sail For St. Helena March 17.—Cecil Rhodes III.—Salt-bury's Reply to Kruger Gives Satisfaction to Natal.

LONDON, March 14.—A few hours should bring important dispatches from Lord Roberts. No word has come from Bloemfontein today, although sharp fighting is believed to have occurred since the commander-in-chief was last heard of. London confidently expects the occupation of the Orange Free State capital will occur today, as previously forecasted.

In the meanwhile attention turns to Mafeking. A dispatch from Lobatsi March 8 says:

Colonel Plumer's force reached here Tuesday, March 6. It is believed that only a single bridge southward has been destroyed and that otherwise the railroad is intact within 5 miles of Mafeking. Colonel Plumer has already dispersed several Boer police posts in the neighborhood and is actively pushing his advance southward.

Mafeking can scarcely hold out much longer. The news of Colonel Plumer's approach has given substance to the rumor of its relief, but those best informed are inclined to think the relief is more likely to be accomplished by Colonel Peakman's column from Kimberley.

Private advices have set forth that Colonel Plumer had almost given up hope of accomplishing anything more than harassing the Boers, though since these were written it is possible that the diminished numbers of the investing force may have rendered Plumer's task more feasible. Judging from the lack of news everything is quiet in Natal, while from Herschel comes the statement that the Boer collapse of the insurgent command is imminent; General Kruger, according to a Cape Town special, sails for St. Helena on March 17.

Cecil Rhodes is suffering from catarrh of the stomach and is unable to sail for England.

Natal dispatches recount that greatest satisfaction is felt there at Lord Salt-bury's reply to the Boer president's peace overtures.

A dispatch from Pietermaritzburg, published in the second edition of The Times, says:

"The reply, especially the last paragraph, relating to independence, has been received in Natal with a feeling of great relief and is dispelling all doubts." A private dispatch from Johannesburg has been received in London, dated Saturday, March 10, contradicting reports that the mines are flooded and the machinery broken, and asserting that all is well.

CURTAIN RAISERS.

Eden Mortimer has been added to Stuart Robinson's company.

Bosen's new play has the rather fanciful title of "When We Dead Awake."

In Japan it is not considered correct for ladies in attendance at the theater to wear the same dress during the entire evening.

Thomas Jefferson is playing "Rip Van Winkle" through the west. His father, Joseph Jefferson, is resting at his Louisiana place.

In a fine line behind the scenes at the Casino, New York, recently Kitty Mitchell and Clara Navel were slightly burned about the arms.

"The Rose of Persia," now running at the Savoy theater, London, will be produced at the Knickerbocker theater, New York, next September.

Ten of the plays in Mr. Mansfield's repertory were written by American authors and nine by foreign authors, including two of the Shakespeare group.

John W. Ransome, the well known impersonator of public men, has selected a play entitled "The Politician," in which he may shortly make his star debut.

There is hope for the amateur playwright, if example goes for anything. David Belasco's first play was "Jim Blackie or, The Regulators' Revenge."

Bernhardt and Rostand are having trouble over the play the latter wrote for the former to produce. She wants Guilty to play the leading man's part, and he insists on Coppelin.

"Children of the Ghetto," despite its practical failure in New York and its season of one consecutive week in London, has been sent on tour. The cast is about the same as the one that was taken to London, headed by Wilton Lackey.

One of the Four Hundred.

Harry Lehr, who has achieved a certain amount of distinction in New York society, is worth looking at. When he meets a friend, he allows his hand to drop in a listless fashion a few inches from his body and merely accepts the proffered glass. His voice and manner of speaking betoken intense weariness. He is perhaps 20 years old. A few nights ago he was promenading the Waldorf corridors in evening dress, with his trousers turned up well over his ankles. He stopped to speak to a friend in front of two very rich self-made men who are not in society. The men watched him with absolute astonishment depicted on their faces. They had never seen his counterpart.—New York Letter.

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"Velours foulard," very soft and glossy in finish, is one of the many novelties in materials.

"Idem" is the name of a new tulle which is as strong as net and yet retains the soft film of the old material.

Cotton and silk grandines are another novelty, and the French chailies with satin stripes are more charming than ever.

Straps of braid continue to terminate on many tailor costumes in tiny buckles or buttons, and the vests of handsome "dress" costumes have a double row of costly gold and enamel buttons down the front.

Lace gowns or those of net in the still fashionable combination of black and white, enhanced with strappings, arm bands and natty French choux of black velvet ribbon, have developed this season to a degree of beauty never before attained.

So beautiful are the new ribbons that all the old fancies which once seemed so faultless pale beside them. As in everything else this season, the colors are as soft and shadowy as possible and in texture almost like gauze, but finely and closely woven like silk.


Mousselines, part silk and part cotton, are an interesting feature of the new dress materials, as they are especially recommended for wear at the seashore. They are entirely without dressing, and their special beauty is said not to be affected at all by the sea air.

The directoire scarf of taffeta, India silk, crepe de chine and silk mousseline is promised as one of the features of spring wraps. It is trimmed with silk fringe and draped about the shoulders like a fichu tied in a knot at the bust. The ends vary in length, reaching from just below the waist to the hem of the skirt.—New York Sun.

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THE REPUBLICANS TO HOLD A CAUCUS

Effort to Settle Differences on Porto Rican Question.

FORAKER IN CHARGE BILL

Has Drafted Amendments Which He Hopes Will Meet Demands of All Interests—Trying to Please Free Traders and Tariff Men.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—The Republican senators have decided to hold a caucus for the settlement of their differences upon the Porto Rican question and a call has been issued for a meeting after the adjournment of the senate today.

Senator Foraker, in charge of the bill providing a form of government for Porto Rico, has drafted amendments to the bill which he thinks will meet the demands of all interests in the Republican party, and the measure as the house amended will be submitted to the caucus. So far there has been no departure from amicable feeling among senators and there is a noticeable disposition to reconcile all differences in the interest of party harmony.

In this desire the president is known to join heartily, but he has told senators who have visited him that he was equally anxious that certain principles should remain inviolate in the settlement. He traces among other things the retention of the house principle of protection and the establishment of a civil government.

Senator Foraker's amendments are understood to look to the retention of the tariff as applied to articles shipped from Porto Rico to the United States and to its being dispensed with on articles shipped from the United States to Porto Rico and also for the elimination of the provisions of a delegate from Porto Rico to congress. It is believed these concessions will satisfy both the free traders and the tariff men.

THE HEATHEN CHINEE.

The empress dowager of China has introduced the spring style in emperors.—Baltimore American.

The new 13-year-old emperor of China will be probably brought up on the gallant old French maxim, "Ladies first."—Baltimore American.

China's empress dowager seems to be somewhat set in her ways and also quite convincing in such little matters of argument as the possession of a throne.—Chicago News.

The new emperor of China has a great advantage inasmuch as his youth will enable the empress dowager to merely spank him instead of having him beheaded.—Washington Star.

There are predictions that the last dip of the cards made by that charming empress dowager of China will either take all the robes of state off the back of Li Hung Chang or else promote him to additional power, but the predictors are not quite certain which it will be.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Too many people lose valuable time in experimenting with cough and cold cures. They should take Foley's Honey and Tar before it is too LATE. W. A. D'Alemberte.

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Washing Dishes

To wash dishes in half the time, and do it well, follow this recipe: Always use hot water—not warm, but hot. It is best to use mops with china and glass, and, to have a nice lather, instead of using soap use

Gold Dust Washing Powder

Dissolve a tablespoonful in the hot water and wash quickly; have plenty of nice, dry towels to wipe with; have a drainer that will allow the water to run off the dishes into receptacle below, when you will have highly polished glass and china.

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